



The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.



(Photo courtesy of Susan Groff, October 2015)

April 2017 Newsletter **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

206 North Main Street
Underwood

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April 2017						
◀ March						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shan Schools Fund Raiser – Mpls.
2 Ellen Eastby Social Justice Discussion Play Practice 12 N Adult RE – New Jim Crow CC	3 AA 7pm	4	5	6 Worship Committee 9:30 am @ Susan Groff's	7	8 <i>In the Beginning</i> Dress Rehearsal 10:30 am
9 <i>In the Beginning</i> Play Roadside Clean-up	10 AA 7 pm	11 Speakers Committee 4:30 pm Battle Lake U Group 3 pm @ Groff/Wass's	12 Executive Committee 5:30 pm Alexandria U-Group 7:00 pm Widseth Bldg	13 Perham U Group 3:30 p.m. @ Louise Lovdahl's	14	15
16 Easter Mark Boen – “Finding Easter...” Mindfulness Sitting 9-10 am CC	17 AA 7 pm	18 Fergus Falls U Group 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann's	19	20	21	Celebrate  EARTH DAY APRIL 22
23 10:30-11:00 Kris & Wally Warhol Brunch by BL-U Group Annual Meeting CC	24 AA 7pm	25	26	27	28	29
30 Mary Anderson – Finding Home Volunteer Appreciation Pasta Lunch CC	Notes:					

Scheduled Speakers for April

April 2 – Shannon Smith, “Meditation – Traditions and Revival in the West”
Social Justice Continued Discussion in lower level following services and coffee.

April 9 – *In the Beginning* Play directed by Bonnie Albers

Production of “In the Beginning” play directed by Bonnie Bell Albers featuring the story of creation, characters and critters. Final play practice schedule is:

- **April 2nd** - noon following services (kids also).
- **Saturday, April 8** – 10:30 a.m. **DRESS REHEARSAL DATE!!!** (Kids included).
- **April 9 Performance:** Performers please arrive at 9 a.m. (kids also).
-

April 16 EASTER – Mark Boen, “Finding Easter in a Good Friday World.” Relating to direct experience transcending mystery and wonder. The struggles of life we all face can either destroy us or make us stronger. How does God fit into those life time struggles? Sometimes you have to get down lower than you have ever been to stand up taller than you ever were.

April 23 – Abbreviated Service begins at 10:30, “One Love” with Kris & Wally Warhol with reggae music. A prince, a king and queen, a Rastafari. What is the connection between Rastafarians and Haile Salassie? How did he become known as the second coming of Jesus? A religion going back to the dynasty of Solomon. Rastafari is a religion now followed by over one million world-wide; a journey transcending all boundaries, all empires and all conceptions of race. Wally will perform on the steel pan with four Bob Marley songs
The Battle Lake U Group will serve brunch. The Annual Meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m.

April 30 – Mary Anderson – “Finding Home” to honor our many members and friends to serve in this, our church community where we belong and find home. Following the service, the Membership Committee will serve a pasta dinner with special recognition and celebration of our many volunteers.

In this, the 10th year, the Unitarian Church of Underwood has now awarded over \$85,000 in Empowerment Grants!!

Grant Award notices and checks were distributed prior to March 31, 2017 (end of fiscal year, 2016-17) so that the awardees can complete their projects in fiscal year 2017-18. We look forward to hearing more from each of the awardees during the coming year.

UCU Empowerment Grant Awards for 2017-18

YMCA Fergus Falls Scholarship Program	\$1000
Nonviolent Peace Force (Standing Rock Conflict Resolution)	1700
Schools for Shan Refugees	2000
Pelican Rapids Multi-cultural Center Refugees Program	1550
United Way Backpack Program	500
Fergus Falls Farmers Market POP Program	1000

Churches United of Fargo
Perham Kinship Kayak Project
Habitat 500 Bicycle Ride

500
750
1000
\$10,000



POP's KIDS



Ride for Habitat



1st Finished Kayak

Thank you for the work of the Empowerment Grant Committee: Ron Roller, Ellen Eastby, Connie Stigen, and Betsy Wells.

Chili Dinner Turn-out Report Next Month!

Meet New Members

Joan Vorderbruggen and Darryl Booker were welcomed as new members at a ceremony on March 5, 2017. Here is what they tell us about themselves:

"We moved to Battle Lake in May, 2016, to be closer to a natural setting where we could participate more frequently in the outdoor activities we love.

Darryl teaches architecture at NDSU and has been there for nearly 20 years. He continues to practice architecture on the side and also enjoys building and working with wood.

Joan taught architecture for 11 years (NDSU and the Univ. of Oregon), recently leaving the university to return to architectural / design practice, and to explore her interest in art and writing. She is also training to become a certified Forest Therapy Guide.

We're both extremely inspired by nature, and support environmental justice and stewardship.

We occasionally attended the Fargo UU church, and were married by a UU minister inside the Hjemkomst stave church in 2008." *Joan and Darryl*

Editor's Note: And they make fabulous bread pudding that they served us for treats one Sunday!!

U Groups

The UCU U-Groups have had an active year with groups in Perham, Fergus Falls, Battle Lake and an outreach group in Alexandria that meets independently with support from our U-Group Facilitators. Average attendance was approximately the same as last year, almost half the membership. The topics for each month were drawn almost exclusively from the Small Group Ministry website. Topics were intentionally selected in collaboration with topics presented by UCU Speakers or in response to community or national events.

Both Tere Mann and Connie Stigen will be resigning as Co-Facilitators. Tere and Connie will continue until new co-leaders are trained next fall. If you are interested in acting as Co-Facilitator of the Facilitators group, please contact Connie at dcstigen@gmail.com or Tere at teremann@gmail.com.

Projects:

Community Projects:

- Facilitator's Group, along with individuals from other U-Groups and the congregation served lunch at Some Place Safe Tea in February.
- Battle Lake U-Group – Will serve a lunch at Churches United in Fargo.
- Perham U-Group – held a house concert to raise funds for the Kinship kayak project.
- Fergus Fall U-Group – Will have a lunch fundraiser for Back Pack Program after Sunday service on May 21.
- Alexandria Group—Yet to decide

UCU Projects:

- Battle Lake U-Group will serve brunch on April 23 for the annual meeting.
- Perham U-Group – assisted with the March 31 Chili Dinner.
- Fergus Falls U-Group washed ceilings and walls prior to the installation of sound panels.

The April U Group topic is “Renewal” – “If we step away for a time, we are not, as many may think and some will accuse, being irresponsible, but rather we are preparing ourselves to more ably perform our duties and discharge our obligations. *Maya Angelou*

U Group Schedule

- Alexandria U-Group: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm @ the office building of Widseth, Smith & Nolting Office Bldg.: Facilitators: Lee Becker/Susan Sanford.
- The Battle Lake U Group, the 2nd Tuesday @ 3:00 p.m. @ Susan Groff and Dave Wass's. Facilitators: Bob Worner and Joanne Cress. When Joanne and Luke are gone for the winter, Kris Warhol co-facilitates with Bob.
- Fergus Falls U-Group: 3rd Tues @ 6:00 pm @ Tere Mann's, 1319 N Park, Fergus Falls; Facilitators: Dianna Ziesemer/Connie Stigen/Mary Worner.
- Perham U-Group: 2nd Thursday @ 3:30 p.m. @ Louise Lovdahl's, - 42720 490th Ave., Perham; Facilitators: Stan Carignan/Louise Lovdahl.

Each U-Group holds an empty chair for anyone who wants to join with a group.



Roadside Clean-up

April 9th is the date for our bi-annual Roadside Clean-up, with May 7th as a back-up date if weather is prohibitive on April 9th. People can bring a bag lunch, their gloves, and meet on Highway 1 and Water Street Road after church. Dave McRoberts will have garbage bags and vests. Kids under parental supervision also invited!

Newly Formed Communications Committee

A Communications Committee has been newly formed to take advantage of various technologies and social media to provide a safe, secure electronic record keeping and filing system, further communications among members and friends, and increase UCU visibility to the community.

- 1) Google Docs - Norm Kolstad, Board Secretary and UCU Historian, has converted and transferred most of the UCU archived records and photographs to this electronic storage system where records and documents can be shared through secured access. Board and other meeting minutes, the Policy and Procedures Manual, other record keeping documentation will also be stored on Google Docs. Norm will act as administrator with Mary Anderson and Bonnie Showers providing backup. Board members and committee chairs will have access to relevant files using their gmail account and the secured password.

Please note that you may also access Google Docs by following the links as referenced in features below.

- 2) Web site and Facebook Page standards have been approved by the Board of Directors. To view the standards, see the website or Facebook pages. Ellen Eastby is the website administrator and Bonnie Showers is the Facebook Page administrator. For website, see www.ucofu.org. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org and start posting your pictures and comments. Later enhancements are planned for the website.
- 3) To streamline the electronic mailing process for the Sunday Church Reports, the monthly newsletters and other announcements, Ellen Eastby has moved the electronic mailing list from her personal account to Mailchimp.
- 4) Efforts are underway to make Sunday morning talks available online. Watch for information when this happens!!

The proposed amendments to the UCU By-Laws is available at the end of this newsletter or via Google Docs [click here](#).

Communications Committee: Mary Anderson, Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson, Norm Kolstad, Melody Shores, Bonnie Showers.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds usually provides one of her paintings each month for our appreciation! When you have photos of a UCU event and are willing to share, please forward them to Mary.

“Like” UCU on Facebook: see www.facebook.com/www.ucofu.org

Note: The monthly Newsletters are included and many other items of interest are updated regularly and can be viewed at: www.ucofu.org.



Building and Ground Improvements

Based on the recommendations of the Facilities Committee and the Safety Committee, the UCU Board of Directors has approved expenditures of \$7375.00 for building and ground improvements to alleviate lower level moisture problems and to improve safety features. The projects include:

- 1) Modification of back entry to prevent build-up of ice and moisture and increase safety features by extending the sheltered roofline over the basement back entry, removing and re-pouring cement pad and pitch, and replacing existing door with full size door with crash bar.
- 2) Install/replace gutters for better drainage.
- 3) Make landscape improvements around the church building to change slope and water flow.
- 4) Create a wider, safer step that spans the front of the dais from one side of the room to the other.
- 5) Install a coffee counter in lower level to replace corner table.

We received the contract bids from John Rutten and Scott North. The Facilities and Safety Committee will follow-up with the contractors for the work to proceed beginning soon.

Special thanks to Katy Olson, Susan Groff and Kris Warhol for getting the estimates, to Bonnie Bell for counter material estimates, and to the entire Facilities and Safety Committee for their resolve and action to remedy the concerns.

To help defray expenditures, we invite contributions from anyone who loves our building and wants to help preserve its value. Please specify on your donations: *Building improvements.*

Annual Meeting, April 23, 2017
Following Abbreviated Sunday Service

Notice: Proposed Changes to UCU By-Laws

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Unitarian Church of Underwood, Minnesota, the Board of Directors is endorsing amendments to the by-laws. Per Article VII. Amendments to the By-Laws: "These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3rds majority vote of those present and voting at an annual meeting. All members shall be notified by mail or email of any proposed amendments or changes to the by-laws at least 10 days in advance of the meeting to amend."

This serves as notice of proposed amendments or changes in the by-laws. The By-laws with the proposed changes are at the end of this Newsletter or [online here](#), (right click, open hyperlink to Google Docs). They will also be posted on the church lower level bulletin board.

If you have questions on the proposed changes prior to the annual meeting, please contact: Mary Anderson, President at or maryanderson8380@msn.com 218/346-6638 or Norman Kolstad, Secretary at kolstadn@yahoo.com or 218/731-6790.

The annual meeting is April 23, 2017 following an abbreviated Sunday service and brunch that will be served by the Battle Lake/Underwood U Group. The annual meeting agenda will be included with the April 16 Sunday Church Report.

Also, you can view now the Board approved Strategic Planning 2017-18 Goals and Objectives **at Google Docs** [click here](#).



Sunday, April 30, 2017

April is volunteer month. The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a lay-led congregation. Were it not for its members and friends who generously volunteer their time and talents, the Unitarian Church of Underwood would not be as vital and active.

On April 30th following Sunday services, we will celebrate together the contributions we all make. The Membership Committee will provide a pasta potluck with salad and dessert. There will be special recognition and tributes. There are few among us who do not volunteer in some

capacity so please join in the festivities. And if you haven't found your place yet, just see Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson to get connected!!

Hope

By Vaclav Havel

*"Hope is a state of mind, not a state of the world
Either we have hope within us or we don't.
Hope is not a prognostication—it's an orientation of the spirit.
You can't delegate that to anyone else.*

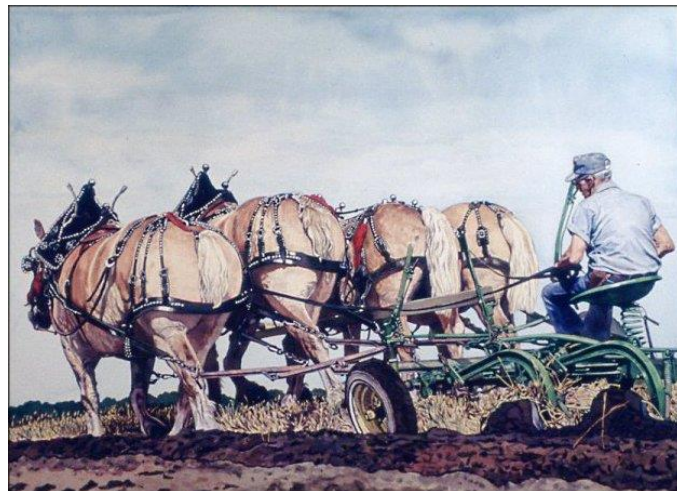
*Hope in this deep and powerful sense is not the same as joy
when things are going well,
or the willingness to invest in enterprises
that are obviously headed for early success,
but rather an ability to work for something to succeed.*

*Hope is definitely NOT the same as optimism.
It's not the conviction that something will turn out well,
but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.*

*It is hope, above all, that gives us strength to live and to continually try new things, even in
conditions that seem as hopeless as ours do, here and now.*

*In the face of this absurdity, life is too precious a thing to permit its devaluation by living
pointlessly, emptily, without meaning, without love, and, finally, without hope."*

Four in the Field



Painting by Mickie Edmonds

It is with hope each spring, that a farmer prepares his fields.

Why you should plan to come to UUA Mid-America Regional 2017- Finding Our Partners: Faith in Action..

Besides the excellent array of workshops and the moving worship services being planned, you will want to hear the UUA Presidential Candidate Forum and also our keynote presenter, Rev. Dr. Lee Barker on the subject of **Finding Our Partners: Faith In Action**.

We asked Lee, "Why are you passionate about the subject of multi-faith partnerships - what excites you about it?" Here is his response:



Being more deeply engaged in authentic multi-faith partnerships and alliances allows for growth in ways we cannot even imagine. And by growth I don't mean only the expansion of inclusiveness and justice -- as true and important as that is. I mean growth in one's theological, philosophical and ethical life. I have experienced it myself and I have seen it among my students, many of whom have long multi-faith "credentials." They find that when they get even deeper, they can't ignore core differences. When they confront that reality, they have arrived at a new place of possibility and hope.

As our congregations are experiencing greater attendance and members' activism in our communities, it is more important than ever before that we work with other faith communities to bring our values to the forefront. When we partner, our impact grows exponentially.

We'll also have a Friday night forum with the UUA Presidential candidates, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, the Rev. Alison Miller, and the Rev. Jeanne Pupke.

Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history, in spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country. At this year's MidAmerica Regional Assembly, we will explore just what that means.



Workshops

The conversation will continue with the some of the great workshop options at the assembly, including:

- Building Bridges across Class and Race
- Post-Traumatic Stress: Inclusion and Community Integration of Trauma Survivors
- Standing with Standing Rock
- With Passion and Purpose: Partnering to Serve Families
- Conversations Against Racism: Using Talk to Strengthen our Walk in our Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression Struggles
- Welcoming the Other: Two Churches Experience with Refugee Sponsorship
- Wonder as a Justice Making Practice
- Interfaith Partnerships for Justice

Worship

The three Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association Chapters in the MidAmerica Region will each be presenting one of the worship services at this year's Regional Assembly. The Central Midwest UUMA chapter will be handling the worship on Friday evening. The Prairie Star UUMA Chapter will be leading the worship on Saturday afternoon. And the Heartland UUMA chapter will be offering the multigenerational Sunday morning worship.

Location and Registration

Join us at the **Chicago Oak Brook Marriott, in Oak Brook, Illinois, April 28-30**, for an exciting weekend celebrating our Unitarian Universalist faith in action. Register for the 2017 MidAmerica Regional Assembly before April 5, 2017, and receive the early bird rate.

REGISTER TODAY:

<http://www.midamericauua.org/ra>



Social Justice – Taking Action!!

Discussion Continues April 2nd, Following Services

A large group of UCU members and friends met following services on February 28th to discuss how we may involve ourselves more to speak and act for social justice. Each participant seemed to have ideas and may have already involved themselves in doing something in our

community to foster justice and equality. Borrowing on and enhancing these ideas, we've developed a Social Justice Resource List of what each of us might do to become involved. [The Resource List can be found here](#) (right click, open hyperlink to Google Docs). If you have information on an opportunity that was missed or new information, please email Mary Anderson at maryanderson8380@msn.com so that it can be added.

The group wishes to continue the discussions with the next meeting April 2nd following the Sunday service. Please join us!! Meantime, find below follow-up information on some of the earlier discussion items.

Church of the Larger Fellowship Letter Writing Project

From Ellen Eastby: Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls, connecting people all over the world for spiritual growth, worship, learning, and mutual support. Anyone, anywhere, anytime can join CLF. Thousands have joined, including individuals who are incarcerated. In fact, over 730 incarcerated individuals have joined as part of CLF Prison Ministry.

CLF Prison Ministry supports incarcerated members in a couple of different ways. First, they offer spiritual support. Each member receives the monthly newsletter, Quest. They also receive monthly reading packets, correspondence courses, and a letter writing match with non-incarcerated individuals.

There are several ways to support CLF's Prison Ministry. You can learn more about that by going to their website: <https://www.questformeaning.org/programs/prison-ministry/> Ellen Eastby has been corresponding with prisoners for two years. She may be able to answer questions that you have. Please keep in mind that the prisoner you exchange letters with, never knows more than your first name nor do they know your address. One non-incarcerated individual may be matched with several prisoners if they would like. Maggie Mehan recently applied to be matched with a prisoner member. Following is a write-up of Maggie's experience of the application process.

"The Church of the Larger Fellowship prison letter writing project is an easy thing to find and to apply for. I just completed the application. People can find the project at the clfuu.org website by scrolling down through the various projects. It took about ten minutes to apply, not counting a 500-word essay that they recommend preparing in advance. The best thing is to look at the application, write the essay and save it and then go back to complete the application, adding the essay at the end. In the essay, you are requested to describe previous contact with incarceration systems.

The application has a short list of questions that includes a checklist of prisoner characteristics that you would accept in a correspondent. They also request a commitment of a contribution to assist with program expenses--not specifying an amount.

Matches are made in February, May, August and November and a six-month initial commitment of one letter per month is expected as a minimum.

I hope this will be sufficient introduction for other prospective letter writers who can pursue for themselves details at the <http://clf.uua.org> website.” *Maggie Meehan*



Walk for Glendalough

Earth Day – April 22, 2017

Take a hike at Glendalough State Park at their annual spring fundraising event. Coffee, cider, and donuts are available before you hike, and a bratwurst lunch is available on your return. Historic lodge is open for tours, and you can view the eagle on its nest during your hike. A free shuttle is provided to and from the nest for our elderly or disabled friends. The naturalist may also have a cartful of surprises! There is no entry fee on this day, but a small donation and registration is required to qualify for door prizes. There is a free will offering for all food items. Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Directions

From the town of Battle Lake, go 1.5 miles north on State Hwy. #78 and 1.8 miles east on Ottertail Co. Hwy #16 to the park entrance. More Information, call [\(218\) 864-0110](tel:2188640110).

Otter Tail Civic Resistance Group

Save the Dates

April 13, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Speaker Don Reicosky, Soil Scientist for USDA AG Research Services, UM Morris. “Keep It in the Soil” @ The Spot, Fergus Falls.

Saturday, April 22 – More Doings on Earth Day

Alexandria - 1-3pm Earth Day March for Science and Environment

April Sat. April 22 - March for Science, Fargo Moorhead - Facebook - Clare Sojourner Harris Palmer

March for Science, St. Paul, MN 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday, April 29 - People’s Climate March - Fargo, ND 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Also, in Washington, DC)

May 13 – Speaker Avonna Starck, Legislative Assistant for the DFL caucus, who will provide strategies on how you can make an impact. The Spot, Fergus Falls.

For further information, contact: Judy Carpenter at judymcarpenter@gmail.com or (218)280-5278.

"It was inspiring to see women wearing **RED** on A Day Without Women, Wednesday, March 8th." *Judy Carpenter*

Resistance **By Sandy Barnhouse**

"Whatever political proclivities you hold, if you see things happening in your government that you can't tolerate or agree with, you must find a way to resist. This becomes a spiritual issue, when things become so intolerable that your deep moral sense finds itself in a state struggle with the polity.

The French did not defeat the Nazi's with their famous Resistance; it was the French Resistance that saved the souls of the French people.

Resistance becomes a spiritual issue. You practice it individually and in connection with your trusted friends and neighbors. Every day the individual does at least one small thing. It becomes a devotion, like the Rosary—one tiny act of resistance, knowing that millions of other Frenchmen and women (and now Americans), are also committing one small act.

Resistance is for the sake of who we are and how we want to stay that way." *Sandy Barnhouse*

Janell Miersch Named as Our UCU Connector to MNIPL

Janell shares with us more about Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light from their website: MNIPL works to build a stable climate that support vibrant, equitable communities for all life. We believe the active care of creation is integral to spiritual life and social justice.

MNIPL works in partnership with faith communities to build transformative **power** and bring the **lights** of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis. We respond to climate change by bringing Minnesota's faith communities together and by providing opportunities for congregations to join the growing climate justice movement.

Together we're sparking a movement to build the world we know is possible: one where everyone's needs are fully and fairly met. Check out this video about our work to simultaneously address the connection between food justice, faith, and climate change. For more information see: <http://mnipl.org/>.

Faith Climate Action Week

Get ready for Faith Climate Action Week, April 17th- 23rd! Join with thousands of faith communities across the country spreading the word about climate change and inviting their communities to act on this urgent moral issue.

Below you'll find all the resources you need for a powerful Faith Climate Action Week in your community.

Resources

Systemic Actions

Statewide:

[Petition for 50% Renewable Energy Standard by 2030](#)
[Renewable Energy for Resilient Cities Postcard](#) and [Petition](#)
[Protect the Environmental Protection Agency Postcard](#) and [Petition](#)
[Join us in DC for the People's Climate March!](#)

Metro Area:

[Energy Equity petition to Xcel Energy](#)

Practical Actions

[Beyond Paris Pledge: Reduce your carbon footprint 50% by 2030](#)
Check out our resources including [Carbon Calculator Worksheet](#), [Beyond Paris Info Sheet](#),
& [Making Your Plan Guide](#) to help get you started!

Spiritual Actions

[Prayer for Love & Healing](#)
[Resources for Sermons](#)
[Interfaith Prayers for the Earth](#)

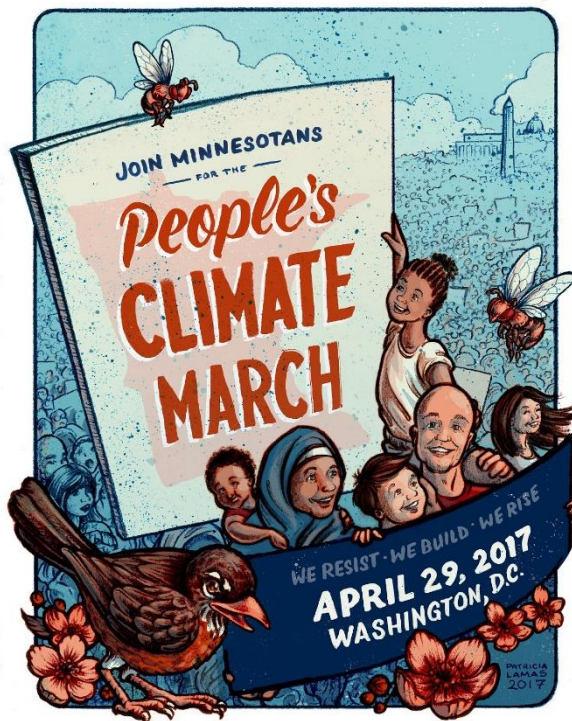
People's Climate March

The first months of this new administration sparked a massive wave of protests. People everywhere are rising up to fight unjust immigration bans, egregious violations of indigenous rights, and dozens of other efforts to tear apart our communities. We're standing together to protect all that we love.

After yesterday's Executive Order, many of us are wondering how best to act. We know the future of our planet and the wellbeing of our communities depend on how we respond to this moment. It will take each one of us showing up powerfully to protect our planet and all who call it home.

[As the new administration attempts to roll back our progress, we're bringing the resistance to their doorstep, to the gates of the White House and the streets of DC.](#) We're calling on you to join us in exactly one month in Washington, DC for the People's Climate March. Hundreds of

Minnesotans are making the trip, traveling by bus to stand up and be counted with hundreds of



thousands of people from across the country.

Our resistance is beautiful — and it's beautiful because at its heart is our undying belief in a just and sustainable world and our power to build it.

The end of April will mark the first 100 days of this new administration. We will mark that day with a massive demonstration that shows that our resistance is not going to wane or fade away. No, we will keep resisting AND we will keep building the beautiful, creative, resilient solutions we need.

Join us for the People's Climate Movement this April 29th in Washington, D.C. to stand up for our communities and climate!

MN350, MNIPL, TakeActionMN, Sierra Club & other local partners are coordinating buses for members of our communities to head out together to Washington, DC from Minnesota.

Get on a Bus

In the metro area and ready to make the trip? [Get your ticket here!](#)

In Greater MN? [Fill out our interest form and we may run a bus from your city or town!](#)

On April 29th, we will march for our families. We will march for our air, our water, and our land. We will march for clean energy, jobs, and justice. We will march for our communities and the people we love.

[Will you join us?](#)

In 2014, 400,000 people took to the streets for the People's Climate March, a transformative moment for our movement. We know the People's Climate Movement holds the same to promise. **Together we'll show the true scale and power of the beautiful intersectional climate movement that's been building, and take it to new heights.**

Green Gossip

We would like to feature your experience with the use of solar power/panels, geothermal or LED so if you'll submit a brief article or even a few paragraphs describing the use and results of such and how you think it is making a difference, we'd like to hear about it. Submit to Mary Anderson at maryanderson8380@msn.com. If you have other suggestions for energy conservation or environmental action, you can also submit those suggestions. Thank you!!

UU Bulletin

A monthly newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Association to keep you and your congregation informed.

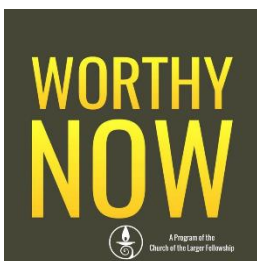
Resist and Rejoice at General Assembly 2017

[Registration](#) and [housing reservations](#) for the 2017 UUA [General Assembly](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 21-25, are now open! General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA, where attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. This year's theme of GA "Resist and Rejoice!" will awaken and deepen the commitment of Unitarian Universalists to the power and possibility of working in solidarity with those on the margins. Highlights include the 2017 [Ware Lecture](#) from Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of Just Mercy, and the UUA presidential election. [Learn more](#) and register today.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Join Prison Ministry Support Circles



The [Church of the Larger Fellowship's](#) Prison Ministry began hosting monthly Worthy Now Support Circles on the fourth Thursday of each month at noon EST starting in February. The circle is a space for UUs and those who identify as religious liberals who are doing ministry in prison, jail and detention to come together in community. They are a place to share ideas, work out problems, and grow. Email worthynow@clfuu.org for more information.

Notes from March UCU Speakers

March 5, 2017 Bob Worner, “Why Are We Here?” - There are the metaphysical questions (nature of being) and the “down to earth” sense of why we are here.

Metaphysically, “what are we?”: stardust; advanced ancestors; advanced Neanderthals; of Scandanavian or German descendants; Americans – who are “puzzled, muzzled in a counterculture.” Is this God’s universe -either a divine image or a goddess of birth and life?

And the answers are that yes, all in part – our backgrounds make a huge difference in how we look at the world. Our interpretation of the scriptural passage regarding: “Dominion” – be it the Jewish interpretation that we have dominion to “be responsible” or the interpretation of dominion that we are “here to take and satisfy our wants.”

Bob then relayed the story of his own journey/evolvment from a 9 - year-old who was loved and accepted and because those in his small community believed it, he was taught not to question his church’s teaching. Then he went to Seminary and held a different kind of private conversations. He left the ministry and for a time, he and Mary “wandered”. They came to UCU about 15 years ago, and here he found peace with the human world.

From “a down to earth sense” on why are we here: currently, book club reading, *Ethics and the Economic Interpretation* by Frank Knight. Neither ethics nor economics can be regarded as science. There is too much unpredictability. Humans are enigma, unpredictable. Ethics shift depending on the circumstances. There is not meaning in: things, longevity, conformity, comfort – these do not define “who we are.”

UU Principles 6, 7 and 2 are a covenant on how life matters and why we are here. We are here to promote world community, peace, liberty, justice - in the interdependent web of all existence. To live these principles day to day; to live with passion for earth, for the poor, knowing that love is stronger than hate – and to live with warmth, humor and passion.

March 12, 2017- Andy Hayner shared his experiences on “**The Stand Against the Oil-a-garchy at Standing Rock Reservation**.” As a cleansing ritual, Andy had us pass the burning sage. Andy meant to spend a week-end at Standing Rock and instead, spent 3 months providing food for the camp. There, he met **Doodle Bivens and Clancy Ward** who contributed music that never stopped, like the story of the ants and the grasshopper (crickets).

Oil is all around us. In America, “it is an oil company with an army.” At Standing Rock, the pipeline falls on sacred ground and crosses the major water source just one mile north of the Indian reservation. This “dirty” oil will be shipped to other countries. November 20th was the “crazy night” where dogs and rubber bullets were used. The mercenaries are an army hired to guard against the protesters who pray for them. The cops decide “who the media is.” On the ground media with the facts include: Revolutionary Z and Unicorn Riot. Do your fact checks when you read the media reports.

Standing rock was a place of prayer, a place to show love, a very spiritual experience – it makes us aware that we are connected and need to make sacrifices. Even in clean-up of the camp, the garbage in the dumpsters were sorted for recycling but before finished, the bulldozers moved in to fill landfills.

Being there made you aware that this is a wake-up call. This is real. It is a spiritual battle. And participants are now even more fired up and moving for “peace vs. the war machine.” The tepees are now in front of the White House. They are now at Sand Piper, Itasca, Rosewood, the Cheyenne River and other places where pipelines are being installed.

The three shared two camp songs, *Cripple Creek* and *Geronimo*.

Attendance: 51

The Lesson of Standing Rock

“On the surface, it may seem as if the Trump Administration buried the native rights and environmental movements with a single thoughtless order in violation of environment protections. But as the pipeline is being laid, the seeds of a new strategy have been placed across the globe. Young new dedicated leaders from around the world attended the epic struggle at Standing Rock, a struggle that would have succeeded had the nation's popular vote been heeded as in every other modern democracy. They are busy networking with each other on a larger strategy: saving the whole planet. Meanwhile, the usually isolated segments of the political left and center of our nation are finally learning to work together. The question now is whether the effort will be sustained and whether the policies needed to save the planet will come in time.” *From Northwoods Fellowship, March 2017 Newsletter.*

March 19 – Underwood Woman’s Study Club. Sandy Barnhouse gave us background information on how and why the Woman’s Study Group of Underwood came to be. The General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) was founded in 1890. This is the largest and oldest non-partisan women’s club. It spread rapidly. Their slogan was there is “unity in diversity.” It gave voice to the woman. The Underwood Woman’s Study Club is part of GFWC.

We began the program as the club begins each meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the GFWC Club Woman’s Creed:

Keep us O God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding, and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without
prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for all things.
Make us to grow calm, serene, and gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences;

That in the big thing of life, we are as one.
May we strive to touch and to know the great common human heart of us all.
And Oh, Lord God, let us not forget to be kind. *Mary Stewart*

The Woman's Study Club had written the play they performed that gave the history of the Underwood Club. It was started in 1934 with the initiation by Helen Olson and Mrs. Irene Brown. Nine ladies met together first on 9/25/34. They have been in existence now for 83 years.

They were to express their frank opinions, develop leaders, follow Robert's Rule of Order, and share knowledge. It was quite a while before they shared lunch. Their first dues were 50 cents. Kathryn Gronner (from UCU) was their secretary. They encouraged personal achievement and civic responsibilities. They were responsible for many projects in Underwood, including the preservation of the historical Foss Log Cabin. They provide a \$500 scholarship yearly to an Underwood female graduate and they continue to sponsor an annual tea for the high school graduating girls. The hats and gloves were removed by the players as they moved through the decades of service to this later era. They gave us history and portrayed the humor and seriousness of the Club's members.

Play Ladies from Underwood with their 1950's hats: Irene Lundby, Delores Peterson, Else Andersen, Myrna Martinson, Linda Martinson, Carolyn Glesne, Marilyn Olson and our own, Sandy Barnhouse.

More information at: <http://www.gfwc.org/>

Attendance 44.

March 26 - Stan Carignan introduced a panel with: **Ron Graham, Janell Miersch, Ellen Eastby and Sandy Barnhouse** to discuss **"Why I am UU."** Stan – "we are a pilgrim people" practicing our 3rd UU Principle: "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation."

Backgrounds:

Ron, from a fundamentalist and Methodist background likes the UU Principles and that he finds here the kind of people he wants in his life and "the only folks who would have me."

Janell, from a Methodist background that gave her values, has been a long time UU having attending variety of UU of churches because of their relocations. She and John were involved with their children and learned about world religions. They were glad to find a near-by UU when they moved to Fergus Falls.

Ellen, from a Presbyterian/Congregationalist background but her family were founders of UCU and her mom a member. When she became discouraged at her former church, her mom encouraged her to come to UCU and the first words spoken registered with her and she found home.

Sandy, from a mixed religion neighborhood was taught to pray and went to church regularly, "because that's what you did. It was the only intellectual activity."

Traditions They Brought:

Ron - As an ordained minister, he got tired of all the words trying to describe the unknowable. No one knows but there is "something awesome."

Janell – family celebration of the holidays.

Ellen – brought a lot of baggage, resentments – now she just brings herself.

Sandy – here she can bring expression of the things of concern to her.

What they've experienced:

Sandy – her art is a kind of meditation in its process. She has had epiphanies – serene moments when she felt fully alive. There is an essence of everything that moves us.

Ellen – fully alive to the moment – everything spiritual in that moment – feel connected, "at one with."

Janell – like-minded, artistic people who are thoughtful about "the mystery."

Ron – walks with nature. Admires Henry David Thoreau's thoughts about nature and Garrison

Keillor: Everyone in Lake Wobegon is Lutheran, even the atheists – "they just don't believe in the Lutheran God."

Comments: "pliable, nothing to manipulate." For someone with no traditional religious background, here, there is space for seekers, irregular attendance: "no single belief includes us here, no disbelief excludes us. Our celebration of life binds us together." In Norway, everyone was Lutheran because the government required it. Norwegians came here seeking religious freedom. Now in current day Norway, other churches can exist – all for human beings.

Attendance: 41

**Unitarian Church of Underwood
Approved Board Minutes for February 15, 2017**

Board members present: Mary Anderson, David Sanderson, Connie Stigen, Norman Kolstad, David Wass, Bob Worner, Kris Warhol, and John Miersch. Absent: Stan Carignan, Alisha Piekarski. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 5:30 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation.

The agenda was approved (Worner/Sanderson).

The minutes of the January 15, 2017 meeting were approved as printed (Warhol/Wass).

Katie Roller-Olson, representing the Facilities Committee, outlined a proposed remodel of exits, to have cost figures for the March 15 Board meeting.

Reports:

Finance Committee/Treasurer: David Wass
Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson - new members Mar. 5; Worship Committee amended Greeters' Duties to include assistance with lift.
Speakers Committee: JoAnn Larson - tabulating evaluations from congregation.
Foundation/Stewardship Committee: David Sanderson
Program/Worship Committee: Kris Warhol
Community Outreach: Kris Warhol - possible community food pantry.
Facilities Committee: David Wass, lift repair pending
Safety Committee: Norman Kolstad – 2016 reviewed, 2017 priorities.
Sverdrup Suites: David Wass - investigating water leak.
Membership Committee: Mary Anderson –photo directories delivered, on budget; volunteer appreciation event April 30, 2017.

Unfinished Business:

An email vote to certify to the UUA 65 household and 88 individual memberships was passed with 9 aye votes. President Anderson noted that dues remain at \$65 per member/year for the UUA and \$25 per member/year for the Mid-America region.

Communications Team membership and actions (google docs) were noted and goals enumerated by Mary Anderson and Norman Kolstad. Mary Anderson reported progress on the Fall Area Workshop. Charges to committees were presented. Norman Kolstad presented proposed by-laws changes, noting those dealing with term limits and board turnover. Board members were assigned congregant contacts.

New Business:

Ellen Eastby was appointed by President Anderson to represent the congregation to the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA). Ellen will also be the Area Workshop Task Force coordinator for MUUSJA. Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light has requested a UCU coordinator/connector. A review of the 2016-17 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives is underway, a draft of the 2017-18 plan to be presented at the March 15, 2017 Board meeting.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Finance Committee tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Board President Anderson at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad, secretary.

**Notice of Proposed By-Laws Amendments
(for Membership Approval at Annual Meeting, April 23)**

BY-LAWS OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF UNDERWOOD, MINNESOTA

ARTICLE I. NAME AND STATUS

The name of this congregation is the Unitarian Church of Underwood, Minnesota, located at 206 N Main Street, Underwood, MN 56586.

The church was ~~first~~ organized on January 13, 1889, and incorporated on September 2, 1889, as The Free Christian Church of Underwood. On April 25, 1965, the by-laws were amended to change the name of the church to The Unitarian Church of Underwood, ~~MN~~ Minnesota.

This congregation shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, Massachusetts, and the ~~Prairie Star District~~ Mid-America Region of that Association or their successors.

The Church is a non-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Minnesota according to the document entitled "Articles of Incorporation of the Free Christian Church of Underwood, Minnesota". It was filed for record on September 2, 1889, Book B of Incorporations, Page 6, State of Minnesota, Otter Tail County.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a fellowship of seekers after truth, bound by no dogma, restricted by no creed, following the dictates of their own conscience. The purpose of this fellowship is to bring religious liberals into closer acquaintance and cooperation. Relying upon reason as our guide, and upon freedom as our method, we seek to grow in understanding of ourselves and of our neighbors and to serve our community.

Mission Statement: The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Definition. Any person sixteen years of age or older who is in agreement with the purposes of the church and has signed the membership book may become a member of this congregation. Membership is open to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

Section 2. Voting Member. A voting member shall be one who has ~~signed the membership book and~~ completed any one of the following: ~~has~~ participated in an activity of the congregation in the past year; ~~has~~ made a recorded financial contribution since the beginning of the fiscal year or expressed, verbally or in writing, a desire to remain a member.

Section 3. Withdrawal or Removal of Membership. A member who wishes to withdraw from membership shall notify any member of the Board in writing. A member who has not participated, nor contributed services or funds during the current and preceding church year may

be placed on the inactive membership roll pending a return to participation or written resignation. ~~or death.~~

Section 4. Continued Support. Members who leave the area but continue to support the church will be considered active members.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Definition. The Board of Directors is the policy body of the church. The Board is responsible for the care and administration of the property of the church and for conducting its normal business affairs. The board affirms all new members. The Board may create and disband such committees as it deems necessary and will determine the powers and duties of all committees as well as approving all committee chairs. The Board has the responsibility to keep the congregation informed of its actions.

Minutes must be published.

Section 2. Organization. The Board of Directors is comprised of ten voting members, elected at the annual meeting, or appointed in the interim, with consideration regarding gender balance. An immediate past president who is out of office shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board for one year following a change in the presidency. Following the election of the Board, the past president will schedule call a reorganization meeting to elect, from their own midst, a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for the coming year; The past president will also serve on the executive the Executive Committee shall be comprised of these officers plus the immediate past president.

Section 3. Terms Limits ~~Board members will be limited to six consecutive years and can be re-elected after a two year hiatus. A Board member, excluding the treasurer, can be an executive committee member for three consecutive years and be re-elected after a one year hiatus. Board terms are three years and shall be staggered so no more than four terms expire each year. Upon election to a second consecutive three-year term, a person shall be ineligible, either by appointment or election, for a Board position for a further period of two years.~~

Section 4. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy, ~~on the Board between annual meetings, the members of the Board may appoint someone to fill out the term until the next annual congregational meeting, the Board shall appoint an eligible person to fill that term vacancy for up to one year or position until the next annual congregational meeting.~~

Section 5. Quorum. Six members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. ~~If Board decisions are required between scheduled meetings a vote may be taken using mail, phone or email provided a quorum is reached.~~

Section 6. Open Meetings. All Board meetings shall be open to the congregation except those dealing with ~~personal~~ personnel matters. The Board shall give reasonable ~~advanced~~ advance notice to the congregation as to the time, place, and agenda for the Board meetings. If Board decisions are required between scheduled ~~meetings~~ meetings, ~~a vote~~ Board action may be taken using mail, phone or ~~email~~ email, provided a quorum is reached and a reasonable effort has been made to include all Board members.

ARTICLE V. PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH

Should division occur in this church, property shall under no circumstances be divided or alienated from its purpose, nor shall the matter be given over to the secular courts for decision, but the whole property fall to that part of the congregation that remains faithful to these by-laws. If two or more parties claim to be faithful in that respect, the Unitarian Universalist Association or its successor, which corporation now has its domicile in Boston, Mass., shall decide the matter, and their decision shall be final.

ARTICLE VI. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Meeting. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held in the first quarter of the church year. Special Congregational meetings may be called by the ~~Board~~ Board by giving at least 10 days written notice to the congregation's active membership. The church year begins the first day of April each year and ends the 31st day of March the following year.

Section 2. Definition of a voting member. Refer to Article III, Section 2.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum, at an annual meeting of the congregation, shall consist of 25 percent of the active membership or 15 active members, whichever is ~~less~~ fewer.

Section 4. Nominating Committee. A standing nominating committee shall be created by the Board ~~and to~~ include at least two Board members and two congregational members. The duty of the committee shall be to present, at the annual meeting, names of a sufficient number of candidates to fill the expiring terms of Board members. Nominations shall also be sought from the floor at the annual meeting. *If there are unfilled terms at an annual meeting, nominators must designate the board term to be filled.*

Consent of ~~all candidates nominated~~ nominees must be obtained prior to voting. This committee ~~will shall present also be responsible for presenting~~ candidates to the Board to fill *vacated board positions and* committee ~~and other~~ leadership positions that may arise ~~though out~~ throughout the church year.

Section 5. Election. The congregation, at the annual meeting, shall elect active members to replace those whose Board terms have expired or been vacated.

Section 6. Voting. All voting at the annual meeting, including election of Board members, shall be by simple majority, except as provided in Article VII regarding the amendment of the by-laws.

Section 7. Finance Committee. This committee shall consist of ~~the executive committee~~ Executive Committee of the Board plus up to five congregational members and is charged with developing the annual budget; fundraising; recommending ~~to the board~~ management of all church funds to the board; and auditing the congregational financial records annually. The congregation is charged with reviewing and voting on the proposed budget.

Section 8. Reports. At the annual meeting, reports shall be given of the activities of the church and its associated societies for the past church year.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3rds majority vote of those present and voting at an annual meeting. All members shall be notified by mail or email of any proposed amendments or changes to the by-laws at least 10 days in advance of the meeting to amend.

Amended at Congregational Meetings:

April 25, 1965

March 3, 1974

May 4, 2008

April 15, 2012

April 21, 2013

Pending Approval April 23, 2017